



# TRI-COUNTY HEAD START

ANNUAL REPORT  
2021-2022

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# LEADERSHIP

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Brian Saxton - Chair**

**Dr. Teresa DiStefano - Vice-Chair**

**Cheri Bell - Secretary**

**Nicholas Hogue**

**Ellen Holt**

**Sue Anne Benjamin**

**Mary-alice Wirick - Parent**

## POLICY COUNCIL

**Yalonda Mims - Benton Harbor**

**Ashley Jaffee-Montgomery - Cassopolis**

**Shaylin Gillette - Decatur**

**Treonna Hill - Dowagiac**

**Jenna Wade - Gobles**

**Kayla Wolford - New Buffalo**

**Mary-alice Wirick - Niles Bell**

**Tamika Quiles - Paw Paw**

**Emerald Kiourtsis - Sawyer**

**Denice Burling-Jewell - SMC**

**Evelin Garcia - South Haven**

**Crystal Clinton - Spinks**

**Sherry Bennett - Community Member**

**Kristen Chism - Community Member**

**Anna Carter - Community Member**

## WHO WE ARE

# MISSION

To be a vibrant and progressive educational agency supporting the development of children 0-5 years of age while promoting healthy family functioning for Head Start children and families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties.

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Since our inception in 1972, we have served over 40,000 children and families in Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren counties. Tri-County Head Start currently serves 908 children from birth to five years of age, and their families in both our home-based and center-based programs.

At Tri-County Head Start, we support children, families, and communities on their path to success. We use a comprehensive approach that focuses on the whole child and their family which means partnering with families allowing students to develop academically, socially, intellectually, and emotionally.

We are committed to high-quality services and apply an always learning mindset to everything we do.



## A NOTE FROM THE CEO

I am pleased to present Tri-County Head Start's 2021-2022 Annual Report, in our 50th Year. While this year was still impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we continued to make great strides in improving services for families and looking towards the future.

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration was a smashing success, we continue to make strides on our location projects, and we are getting closer to having all classrooms transitioned to the High-Scope curriculum.

I thank our staff for keeping everyone safe, navigating changes, and making magic happen in classrooms. It is because of their hard-work and perseverance that our agency continued to move forward. I am proud to work alongside such amazing people.

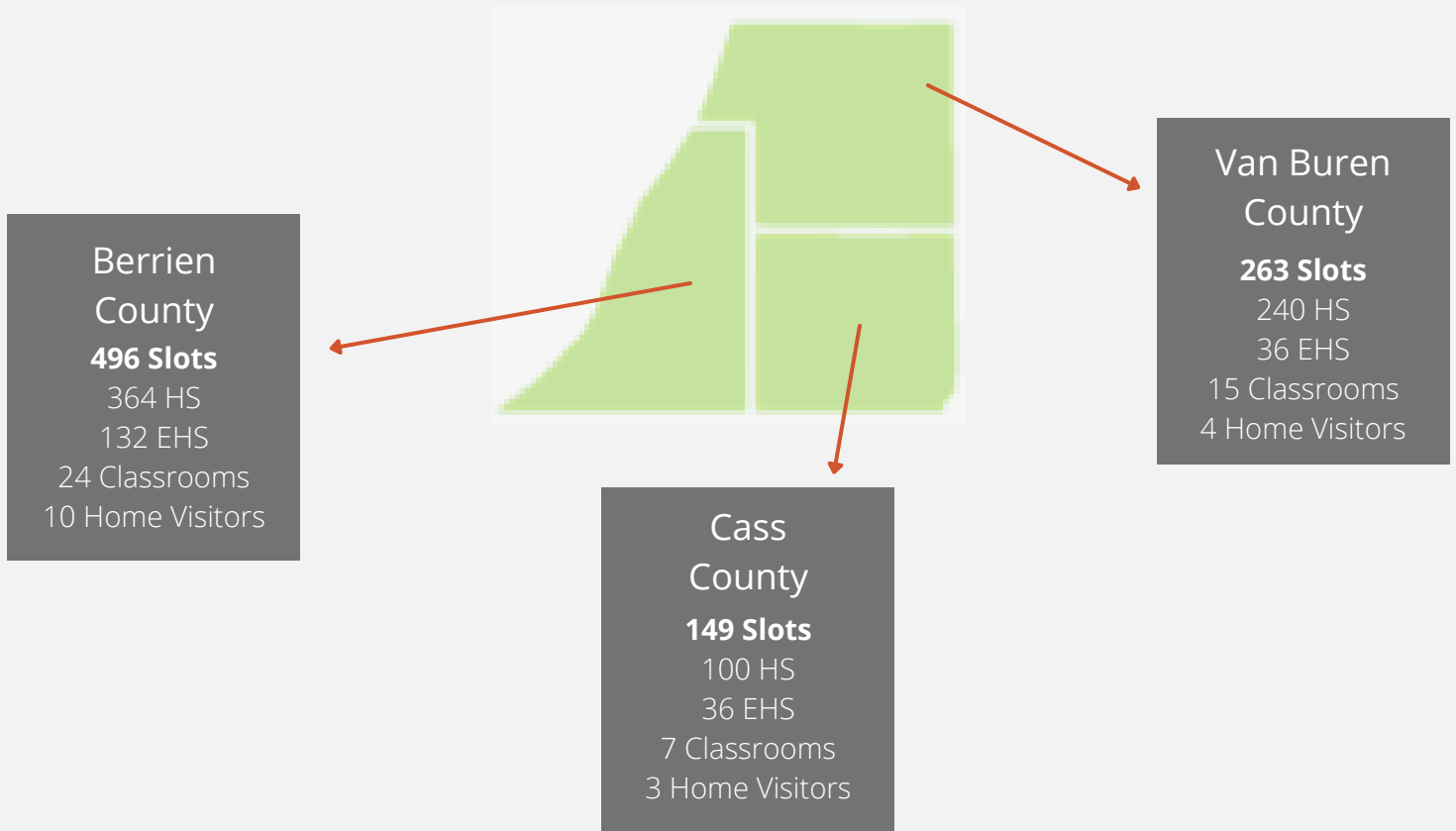
Sincerely,  
Chanda Hillman  
CEO/Executive Director

## WHO WE SERVE

### TOTAL FUNDED ENROLLMENT

908

Head Start (HS)	704
Early Head Start (EHS)	204



## Berrien, Cass, Van Buren Counties

## CUMULATIVE ENROLLMENT

892

## AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT

78.7%

## TOTAL FAMILIES

827

## CHILDREN ENROLLED FOR MORE THAN 1 YEAR

344

## ELIGIBLE CHILDREN SERVED

21%

## AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE

76.5%

**8,028**

Books given to children this year

**400**

Attended our 50th Anniversary Celebration

## TYPES OF ELIGIBILITY

**63%**

100% POVERTY

**18%**

HOMELESS

**6%**

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

**3%**

FOSTER CHILD

**10%**

OVER-INCOME



### RACE & ETHNICITY

Black 26%  
White 53%  
Multi-Racial 20%  
American Indian/Alaska Native 1%  
Hispanic/Latino 19%



### FAMILY EDUCATION

Advanced Degree or Bachelors Degree 4%  
An Associates Degree, Vocational School, or some College 27%  
High School or GED 56%  
Less than High School 13%



### PRIMARY LANGUAGE

English 93%  
Spanish 6%  
Other 1%



### Family Status

Single parent families 31%  
Two-parent families 69%



### Family Status

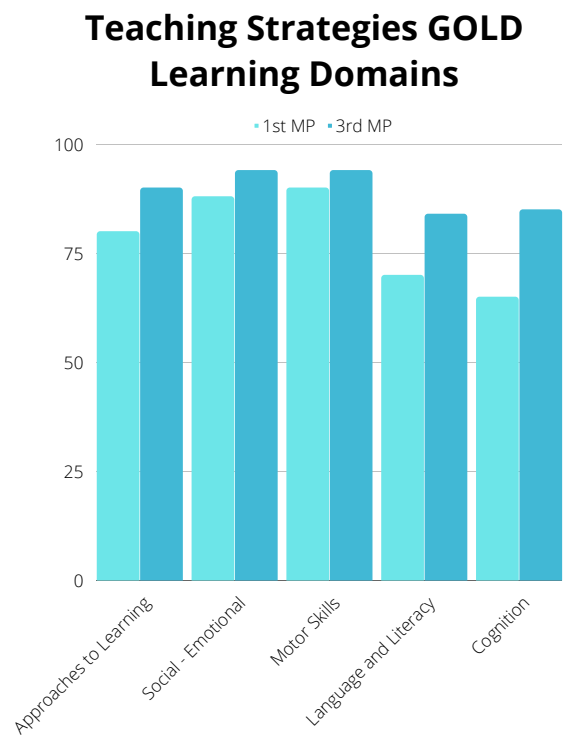
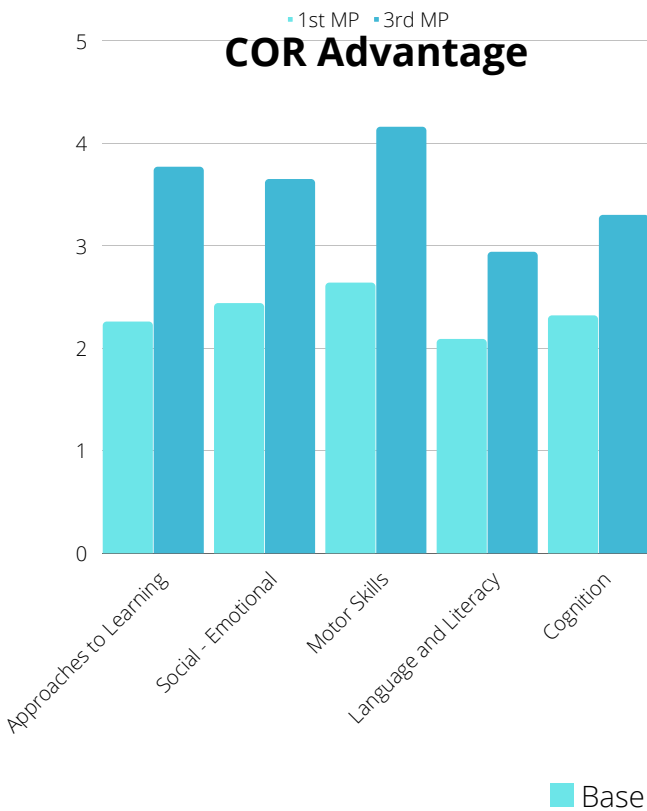
Caregiver employed 75%  
Caregiver enrolled in job skills training or post-secondary education 8%

# LIFE & SCHOOL READINESS



The 2021-2022 school year brought additional challenges when assessing students' skills. With classes inconsistent due to COVID and staffing closures, normal routines were a challenge to develop. However, given these challenges, our students were able to demonstrate great growth this school year. Early Head Start and Head Start operated at five days a week for the majority of the school year. Home Based served students and families in -person and virtually.

The graphs below illustrate the progress in both of our Curriculum/Assessment systems as we transition from Child Observation Record (COR) to High Scope.





# FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Tri-County Head Start wraps our arms around the whole family to support, engage, and educate families. A Family Advocate is assigned to each family to build personal relationships and support them in meeting their needs and helping them identify and achieve goals.

## Family Relationships



48% of all families completed the Family Strengths Assessment (FSA). The FSA is a strengths assessment that helps determine a family's strengths and needs.



Of the families that completed an FSA, 100% of them completed a Family Partnership Agreement (FPA). The FPA is an individualized goal setting process to help support families.



Of the families that completed an FPA, 8% of them were able to accomplish their goal in the 2021-2022 program year.

## Family Activities

Due to the pandemic, all family activities were conducted virtually. Families still reported that they enjoyed the events and in some events attendance increased.

Policy Council

Parent Committee Meetings

Conscious Discipline Parenting Classes

Conscious Discipline Book Club

Fantastic Fathers & Families

The Whole Child Family Expo

Location Review Committee

50th Anniversary Committee

# CLASS - THE CLASSROOM ASSESSMENT SCORING SYSTEM

CLASS is an observation instrument that assesses the quality of teacher-child interactions in center-based preschool classrooms. It monitors three domains of the interactions that support children's learning and development: Emotional Support, Classroom Organization, and Instructional Support. The CLASS scoring system is used in the Federal Monitoring of Head Start classrooms. To ensure impactful child-teacher interactions, Tri-County Head Start has several certified, reliable CLASS observers that, in a typical year, observe and score classrooms to ensure our high-quality expectations and standards are maintained.

HS	Emotional Support	Classroom Organization	Instructional Support	EHS	Emotional and Behavioral Support	Engaged Support for Learning
TCHS Score	6.2	5.4	3.8	TCHS Score	6.3	5.0
Threshold Score	6	6	3			



## HEALTH & NUTRITION

### Wellness and Mental Health

Wellness, trauma and behavior support, and mental health has always been a top priority at TCHS with our children, families, and staff. We are proud to have six licensed Mental Health Consultants on staff, and four Peer Support Teachers. This year we have added a Wellness Coordinator to our staff. They will work with classrooms, staff, and families on wellness activities and strategies along with support our Young Athletes program, and lead our Wellness Committee.

### Child Abuse Prevention

TCHS partnered with the Child Advocacy Center of Southwest Michigan to train all staff on the Darkness to Light - Stewards of Children training. The training educates adults to prevent, recognize, and respond to child sexual abuse.

CHILDREN UP-TO-  
DATE ON WELL  
CHILD EXAMS

97%

CHILDREN UP-TO-  
DATE ON  
IMMUNIZATIONS

98%

CHILDREN UP-TO-  
DATE ON DENTAL  
EXAMS

82%



CHILDREN UP-TO-  
DATE ON DENTAL  
TREATMENTS

86%

**104,367**

Meals and Snacks  
Served at Centers

**12.9%**

Children served with an IEP or IFSP

Head Start requirement is at least 10%

Tri-County Head Start helps children and families learn and maintain a healthy lifestyle. We support healthy families in ensuring children are up-to-date on all immunizations, medical exams, dental exams, and dental treatments. We have a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist on staff who, with the help of families, designs our menus and teaches both children and families about nutrition and creating healthy habits. Our Health Services team helps families keep track of upcoming appointments and due dates. Our Family Advocates connect families with health providers in our area.

# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## FUNDING 2020-2021

TCHS is funded through the Department of Health and Human Services Head Start Award. The Federal grant period and fiscal year for Tri-County Head Start is February 1 through January 31. TCHS operated both a Head Start and an Early Head Start program, in addition to five blended classrooms with the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), the State-funded preschool program.

# \$12,163,324

<b>Department of Health &amp; Human Services Head Start Award</b>	<b>\$10,619,702</b>
<b>Operating Funds</b>	<b>\$10,483,689</b>
Head Start	\$7,338,907
Early Head Start	\$3,144,782
<b>Training &amp; Technical Assistance</b>	<b>\$136,013</b>
Head Start	\$67,849
Early Head Start	\$63,164
<b>In-Kind</b>	<b>\$827,994</b>
Head Start	\$527,680
Early Head Start	\$300,314
<b>CACFP/USDA</b>	<b>\$296,371</b>
<b>GSRP</b>	<b>\$245,844</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	<b>\$69,286</b>

## Monitoring Results

An annual audit for fiscal year 2021 was conducted by Kruggel Lawton, CPA, and independent auditor, with no findings.

As part of our Federal Grant Award, three monitoring reviews are conducted, results of the most recent reviews are as follows:

- Focus Area 1 Monitoring Review: January 2021 - No Findings
- Focus Area 2 Monitoring Review: May 2018 - No Findings
- CLASS Review: April 2018 - No Findings

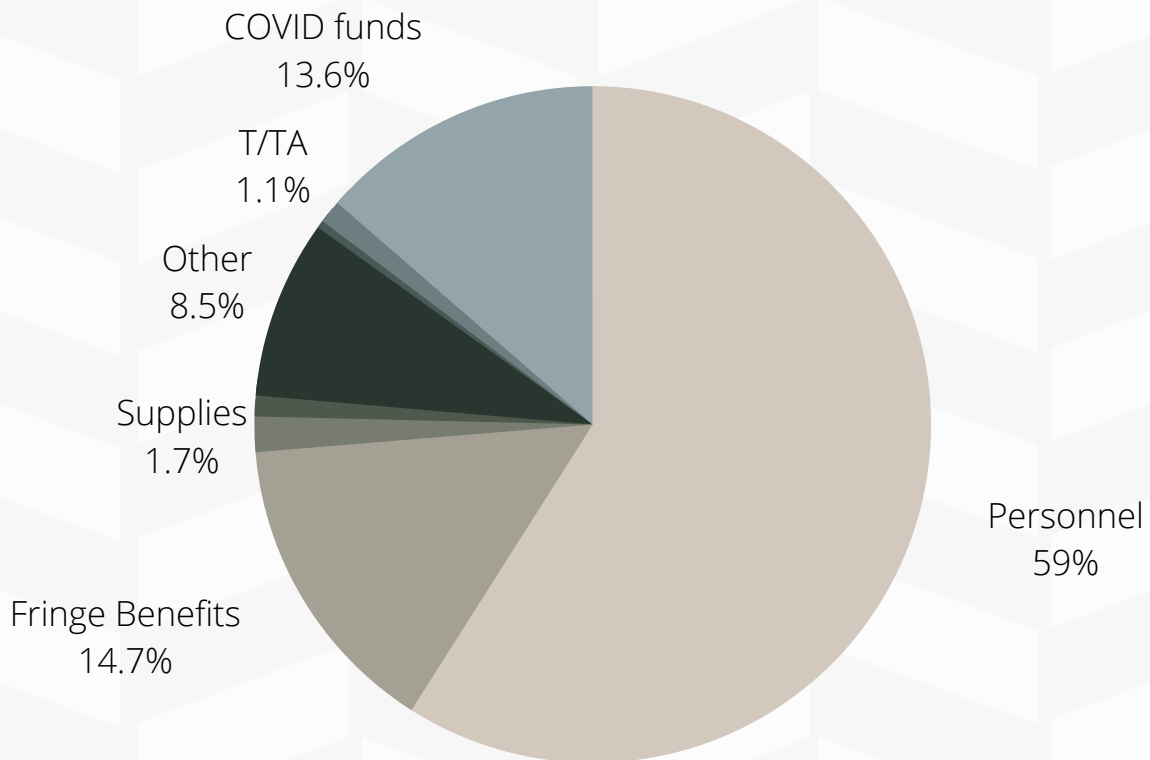
## BUDGET VS. EXPENDITURES

2021-2022

CATEGORY	BUDGET	EXPENDITURES
Personnel	\$6,329,065	\$6,596,810
Fringe Benefits	\$2,156,362	\$1,747,233
Supplies	\$503,206	\$544,186
Contractual/Agreements	\$135,661	\$146,438
Other	\$1,408,452	\$1,364,269
Equipment	\$202,109	\$126,947
T/TA	\$136,013	\$136,655
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10,736,003</b>	<b>\$10,662,538</b>

## BUDGET 2022-2023

**\$11,671,952**



## WHAT IS AHEAD

Our organization is committed to providing children a high-quality early learning experience, built on a foundation of research, that prepares them for success in Kindergarten and beyond. With the realities of the impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and changes in the world of Early Childhood Education, we are anticipating some significant changes in the upcoming years that will enhance our services, and enable us to expand services.

Our agency will continue on its path of Continuous Quality Improvement, as we seek new and innovative ways to make the biggest impact on the children and families we serve. Below are some of the initiatives we will be working on in the year ahead.

**Location and Facility Projects in Benton Harbor and Cass County**

**Service Expansion**

**Work to gain NAEYC Accreditation - the hallmark of quality in Early Childhood Education**

**Continue progress on our 5-year goals**

# 2020-2025 Goals

## GOAL 1:

Tri-County Head Start will enhance strengths-based professional development and training opportunities for all staff members to maximize potential and quality of services.

## GOAL 2:

Tri-County Head Start will increase community awareness that we are leaders in Early Childhood Education.

## GOAL 3:

Tri-County Head Start will improve access to community resources and services for the children and families we serve.





# TRI-COUNTY HEAD START

Berrien • Cass • Van Buren

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TCHS is a 501(c)3 funded through grants and community support  
This report is also available at [www.tricountyhs.org](http://www.tricountyhs.org).  
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